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## Sermon Notes-Business Men's Attitude to the Church, or rather, Towards Christianity

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SERMON NOTES

"BUSINESS MEN'S ATTITUDE TO THE CHURCH  
OR RATHER; TOWARDS CHRISTIANITY"

✓ First M. E. Church, Los Angeles  
October 16, 1923

✓ Brotherhood Club, Santa Ana, March 4, 1932

✓ Wesleyan M. E. Church, Anaheim, April 26, 1932.



Business Men's Attitude to the Church, or rather, Towards Christianity.

Introduction.

Religion of Jesus.

Are the teachings, or ethics, of Jesus

practical? Is His program merely visionary, or a beautiful theory, but wholly impractical? Can we without a spirit of seeming fanaticism be religious during the busy hours of every day life?

Many religions but not Christian

Many of us church people are somewhat like a friend I had in <sup>nearby city etc</sup> ~~Long Beach~~. I have known but few men so intensely religious when it came to doing as to what he conceived his religious duties and so far from having the right attitude toward Christianity, as measured by my understanding of the teachings of Jesus. This man would actually travel fifty miles to attend prayer meeting and enthusiastically engage in every service and seemingly with his heart thrilled with spiritual devotion. The next day he would go out into the busy business world and from his business methods and business standards no one would recognize that he ever had any sense of the right.



Business Men's Attitude to the Church  
or rather, Towards Christianity.

The man by business man  
that a man is busy in attending  
to affairs or the activities of life  
He is accustomed looks carefully  
into problems about him. He does  
things.

Many of us church people are somewhat

like a friend I had in London. I have known

but few men so intensely religious when it comes

to doing as to what he conceived his religious

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Like another friend of mind said of him, that ~~he~~ his religious <sup>ethics</sup> and business <sup>dealings</sup> ~~ethics~~ were like the Jews and the Samaritans, they had nothing to do with each other.

This has been more or less the way with many of us, to the injury of the church. Men of the world have measured the church and even Christianity by the methods and standards set up by us in the business world. They don't come into the sanctuary where they can hear the religion of Jesus unfolded and expounded, they only see the practical application we make of it.

I have made several re-adjustments of my attitude toward the church. - *Refer to these*

I am a member of the Rotary Club and men connected with it have begun to teach and practice the ethics of Jesus. "Do unto others -----".

Service. Its motto.

Member at luncheon the other day said he had never been so happy and everything in his business and home life has never run so smoothly as it had since he applied the principal of the Golden Rule. I couldn't resist telling him and others present that centuries ago the Galilean



had taught these principles and tried to get men to adopt them, but they couldn't understand, they couldn't see. He said "You have eyes to see, but you don't see."

*Another man, not at all*

We are just getting our eyes opened and have begun to see how beautiful are His teachings. They are practical and when interpreted into life blossom forth so beautifully that all are blessed with them.

*Van Hornes This friend who said could not have stood up under the stress of these times had it not been for his relations to Jesus*

Jesus put the question of our attitude to the church, or Christianity, in a brief word.

He was the world's greatest philosopher. He understood human nature and when discussing the question of getting along in life or one's right attitude toward His religion with a group about him, He said "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness." *at all etc*

We can sit at his feet and learn when great issues of life are at stake. He laid down principles, which if followed, bring real victory.

This statement is true not because he said it. *Many sound reasons for the statement*



A delightful surprize to many to find out how smoothly everything works and all necessary things are somehow provided to those who seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness, in other words, who adjust their lives in complete harmony with the Master's will.

*many willing to make it second, but they would*  
Some think that when ~~we~~ have put our ~~business~~ *business* on good sound footing and have sufficient laid by so that there would be no danger of want, *we will* ~~they would~~ turn our attention to the higher things of life. That was not the Master's method and we cannot successfully change the order.

If we stop to consider human nature as seen in both ourselves and others, we will see that we are no more likely in the future to reverse the order we have adopted than we would be at first. Less likely to do so. *Hard to change*

David Hewes. *good man,*

Jesus knew our human nature and knew plan most likely to make us successful and happy.

We cannot see from the beginning just how we are to get the most out of life and to forecast the blessings that are to come from loyalty to Christ and His Church.



Our religion is <sup>5</sup>one of faith and not sight  
-- walk by faith.

Unquestioned, undoubted, unreserved -  
whole hearted faith will give a clearer vision  
day by day by which we may walk boldly and safely  
through life. In seeking the Kingdom, in looking  
after its highest and best interests, we enter a  
wide and varied field for religious activities wh  
which if we would follow would make us both use-  
ful and happy.

*No one want real success*  
He said if we would seek the Kingdom of  
God and His righteousness first, <sup>houses</sup> ~~however~~, lands  
friends and a good name will be added. This is  
true not because He said it, but He said it be-  
cause it is based upon sound philosophical  
principles of life.

We sweat and toil for a living, yet we  
covet above everything else friends and a good  
name. These are worth our greatest efforts and  
to win them Jesus definitely lays down the way  
and gives us a program of life that if faithfully  
followed will win real and permanent success.  
He says seek the interest of His Kingdom and live  
a righteous life and the natural <sup>l</sup>outcome will be



the making of a good name, the winning of friends and the accumulation of property.

*New York Bank advertisement of a statement by W.*  
If your thoughts are upon the higher things of life, your head will be clear, your mind serene and in condition to weigh the problems of business and of life and come to more sane and sure conclusions than if bewildered by thinking of the gross and vicious things of life.

If you are righteous - that is, your life lived rightly and in accord with God's plan, there are a thousand reasons why you should get along and be useful and happy.

*Does not liberal & appreciative*  
~~No gold bricks.~~

There in brief are the very elements that contribute to genuine success, remembering that the Kingdom stands for the highest and best in life.

The natural fruitage of these fundamental principles are not only common honesty, fairness, courtesy, cleanness of speech and life, but a cheerful willingness to live largely for others and not wholly for self and to live for the higher and more abiding interest of our country.



There would grow out of all this among other good, the adoption by our business men of a higher standard of commercial life, which would be less open to the criticism of the world.

There is another view of the loyalty to Christ and His Church to be considered and that is the liberal compensation that is given the loyal, faithful, devoted man who denies self and serves others. Christ is a liberal and appreciative master. No gold bricks are handed out to those who trust Him. *Let me name some of* here is some of the compensation we get right here in this present world.

First: He makes us clean, clear-headed and serene, humble and happy men, standing before God, conscious of our own dignity as His children. He enriches our souls with his presence, indeed He goes further and will give us all the necessary material blessings that we may need. Friends good name, lands and property as we are able to wisely use them.

We are an intensely commercial people. We are prone to base our estimate of things upon their producing or paying power - the value of money and all that it can do fills too completely



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our vision. Here is great danger. We are in the midst of the fray and the masses applaud the man who wins; that is, who does things in the busy life of the world. We should not glory in this.

Let us lift our ideals of Christ and the Church high above every other thing.

Let us do as Jesus told us to do.

"Seek first His Kingdom" → make it first, material things second.



The business man<sup>9</sup> meets many difficulties that our preachers know little about. Sometimes preachers have ventured into business life and a little experience has given them a great deal more sympathy with the business man than they had before. A man came to me recently and wanted to borrow money to enable him to print a book warning preachers against going into business life.

David Walk ✓

The Christian business man ought to think of himself as a steward or a trustee when it comes to property. He ought to administer his property



with as much honesty as he would if a court had placed him in charge of a large estate to administer. He must ever seek an <sup>enlightened</sup> modified judgment as to the best way of using it and crush out all signs of covetousness and all thoughts of using the money, much or little, for the satisfaction of his selfishness.

The business man ought, also, to realize that more than his money is demanded. He should give of his time. This often is of more value to the cause than the money that he might be able to give.

He should honestly seek to live his best at all times and under all circumstances however trying and difficult. He should never forget that this means not living for self but rather giving of himself with whatever talent he possesses in helping another who is weaker than he is.

There are many more business men who are religious than one might suppose at first thought. They are busy and do not get hitched up with the activities of the church as they ought to, but yet in a way have a desire to be loyal, and here



those who are identified with the church can render great service. A business man recently said to me after he had gotten a better vision of the higher things, that he did not know he was leading a selfish life. He had provided for a family and done it well and stopped there. Now he knows he must render service to others.

A unique feature of Christianity is that it is a positive and not a negative religion. The old law said "Thou shalt not". Jesus would make a man positively good as a means of overcoming evil. You ~~do~~ must do good if you would be good. Simply to restrain evil is not sufficient. The Master said "Every tree that bringeth not good fruit is cut down". "Hear my words and do them".

Let his words <sup>at</sup> ~~that~~ the judgment ring in our ears "In so much as ye did it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have did it unto me." "Enter thou into the joys of thy Lord".

The idea of Christianity is to prepare one in this life for the life that is to come. This is a great process then, if there is beyond this, a life of endless duration, the gaining of which



depends upon the kind of life we live here and having a right attitude toward His church. Then it is of vital importance that we live the right sort of lives and that we have the right attitude toward the church which He loved and gave Himself for, ~~and the religion which he left us.~~

Let me add this further word. We have great problems here in this wonderful <sup>Southland</sup> city to be solved. As our <sup>Community</sup> City grows, there will be others <sup>to whom</sup> if not to <sup>like this group can we look to</sup> men ~~no~~, we work to wisely handle them. This great group of men ought to make a large contribution to the higher development of this wonderful City, ~~you~~ <sup>we</sup> are to have a great City here. A second New York. The kind of a City it will be depends very largely upon the character of the business man of this generation. We are today laying the foundations for a mighty superstructure and we are at the same time building thereon, because we do things so rapidly these days. Unless the foundation be solid and we build a high type of social and industrial life upon it, we will have failed to render the service which it ought to be our joy to render. Few men are remembered



solely because they were successful in business;  
rather because they made some contribtuion to  
the general good.

Let us take the program of Jesus and place  
ourselves in a right attitude to the church which  
He founded and absorb and live the religion  
which he brought from the skies. The Kingdom of  
God stands for everything that is highest and  
best in our civilization. It is the very anchor  
to the life just in proportion as we accept His  
truths and incorporation<sup>on</sup> them into our business  
life. Just in that proportion will <sup>7</sup>loyal and  
not fancied prosperity come.



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These in brief and in a rambling way are some of the elements that indicate a proper attitude toward the church. <sup>+ the church</sup> Following these we will not live wholly for self but for others, <sup>others</sup> for the higher and more abiding interest of our City and of life.

We have ~~great problems~~ here to be solved and as our City grows there will be more, To whom, if not to men like this group, are we to look to wisely handle them?

We want to build a truly American City here.

<sup>was held recently</sup>  
There closed last night ~~at~~ Washington a great conference, a citizenship conference. It was the coming together of the religious and moral forces of the nation to emphasize the importance of good citizenship and patriotism as involved in the observance of all laws, especially the 18th Amendment.

There is in many sections of the country an alarming violation of the liquor law. If we permit this to go on unrestrained, there will result an increasing violation of all laws, and as President Harding said "may some day find expression in far more serious form."



B-

The law breakers and liquor interest are going forward in perfect accord and with a determined purpose to break down enforcement of this law and finally to annul it. I say with emphasis that it is groups of men like this that must unflinching stand for law and its enforcement. Good church men are always patriotic citizens and therefore have ~~the~~ love <sup>for</sup> of our glorious country and its perpetuity. We must stand for enforcement of laws. We must co-operate in a practical and effective way with the officials who are trying to enforce the law.

There is a lot of propaganda being sent broadcast by the liquor interests with the evident purpose of poisoning the public mind against this law. Some of our papers are too willingly and too freely used to give publicity to these <sup>false</sup> faults and misleading statements.

We must in every way uphold our fine American civilization and cherish our American ideals. These are being jeopardized by an appalling indifference by many good people of the attacks made upon them by vicious and organized forces. These are vital questions and must be given attention. The neglect of civic and



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political duties is a common vice of the business  
man.